



SHREVEPORT/CADDO CRIME STOPPERS PROGRAM CELEBRATES 31 YEARS

March marks the 31st anniversary/birthday of the local Shreveport/Caddo Parish Crime Stoppers Program.

It all began in 1981 with a pilot crime reporting program and a handful of volunteers serving as board members would unknowingly play a part in global history. 31 years later, Shreveport Crime Stoppers has evolved into Shreveport/Caddo Parish Crime Stoppers taking on the task of disseminating, collecting, and forwarding any information to investigators of the Sheriff's Office, the Shreveport Police Department and are law enforcement agencies. Although the area of Caddo Parish is the primary responsibility of the local program, Crime Stoppers assumes the role of forwarding any information received to the proper law enforcement agency where the crime has been committed. It is this commitment which has been responsible for capturing fugitives in Texas, California, Colorado and many other states.

In the past 31 years, Caddo Crime Stoppers has grown not only in the geographic area of responsibility but technologically as well; using state-of-the-art software to manage and document incoming tips and assist with statistical data, that in the past was left up to the coordinator to do manually. Technology has enabled Shreveport/Caddo Crime Stoppers to receive tips over the internet using a secure 256 bit encryption, similar to online banking, allowing sensitive anonymous information to be collected by the coordinator. Through the Tipsoft software, this technology provides the capability of establishing a "two-way"

dialogue, similar to instant chat room, with the person submitting the tip via the internet. This feature allows the coordinator to follow up and ask pertinent questions about the crime which the tipster may not have thought of or clarify information regarding the tip. Often the coordinator can give the tipster instructions on getting additional information, getting back on the web, logging back into the Crime Stoppers web site and sharing this additional information.

No longer does the coordinator have to be harnessed to the office to take incoming tips via the phone. With the use of modern communications equipment such as a "Smart Phone", the coordinator can receive incoming calls, check and respond to email notifications, tip inquiries and even remotely check on tips which have been submitted. Since anonymity of the tipster is paramount, member programs **of Crime Stoppers International** and **Crime Stoppers USA** never rely on answering machines to record tips. Instead, Shreveport/Caddo Parish Crime Stoppers employs the use of a 24 hour answering service specifically dedicated to answering only calls relating to a crime tip in the absence of the coordinator. The utilization of this service enables the tipster to always speak to a person about crime information, thus freeing the coordinator from answering the calls after normal working hours and during meetings and presentations. This service also provides peace of mind to the coordinator and the program, knowing a call will never be missed and the information will be received and forwarded to the appropriate investigator in a timely manner.

With over 1300 Crime Stoppers programs in the US alone and a global presence in over 22 different countries, the goal is the same; establishing avenues of communication for the public to channel informational "puzzle pieces", regardless of how small, to solve an even bigger crime picture. In present day, with the constant threat of global terrorism, Crime Stoppers has never played a more valuable role in the receiving and exchanging of information between law enforcement agencies, locally, nationally and globally.

This process is dependent on a "triad" relationship between law enforcement, the media and the public. **Sgt. Jim Taliaferro, Coordinator of Caddo Parish Crime Stoppers** stated, *"Take any one of the three out of the equation and you have no program. We are equally appreciative to each of these entities for their participation and support which makes not only our program successful, but each Crime Stoppers program in the world successful".*

In 2005 the United Nations recognized Crime Stoppers International as a major contributor to the war on terror by processing countless tips which have lead to identifying and dissolving terrorist cells and arresting those terrorists responsible

for planning calculated acts of violence. In 2008, Director of the United States Marshals Service, John F. Clark, stated in his letter to members of Crime Stoppers USA, *"We share in a common goal. We are committed to identifying, locating, and stopping the criminals that prey on our society"*. He further states, *"I am committed to building stronger partnerships between the United States Marshals Service and the local programs of Crime Stoppers USA"*. Sergeant Taliaferro stated, *"This commitment is evident in the extraordinary working relationship between Caddo Crime Stoppers and the US Marshals Fugitive Task Force"*.

In 2011, Caddo Parish Crime Stoppers has achieved the following.

	2010	2011
Arrests:	83	70
Cases Cleared:	106	93
Fugitives Arrested:	77	36
Rewards Paid:	\$33,430	\$23,425
Weapons Recovered:	6	8
Property/Narcotics Recovered:	\$16,250.00	\$48,370

Crime Stoppers USA total statistics as of 3/8/2012

Arrests: 614,877
Cases Cleared: 934,151
Rewards Paid: \$85,110,758
Property Recovered: \$1,102,005,371
Drugs Seized: \$2,964,204,953

Shreveport/Caddo Parish Crime Stoppers is honored to have played such an important part in assisting our investigators with identifying, locating and apprehension of would be fugitives and look forward to many more years of success. We are resolute in offering our resources to assist area law enforcement in protecting and restoring the quality of life to our citizens.

**"CRIME STOPPERS DOESN'T WANT YOUR NAME,
JUST YOUR INFORMATION"**

www.lockemup.org